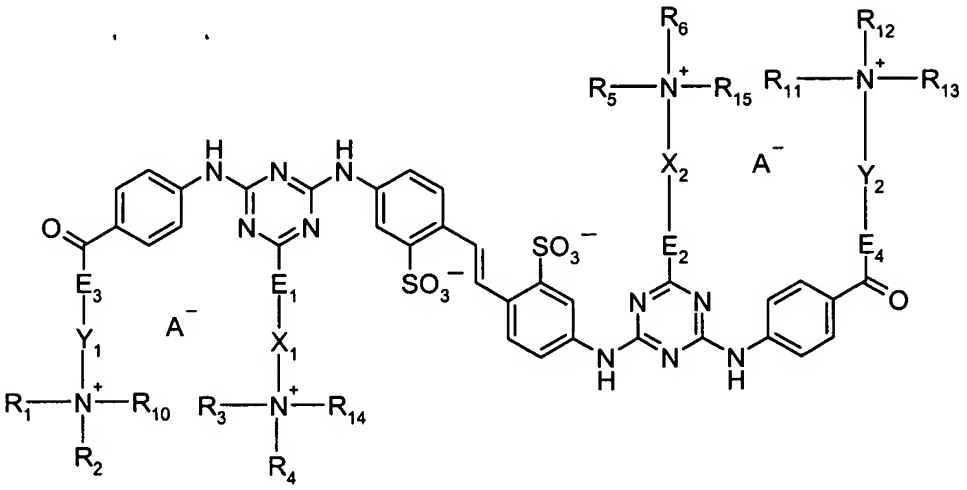
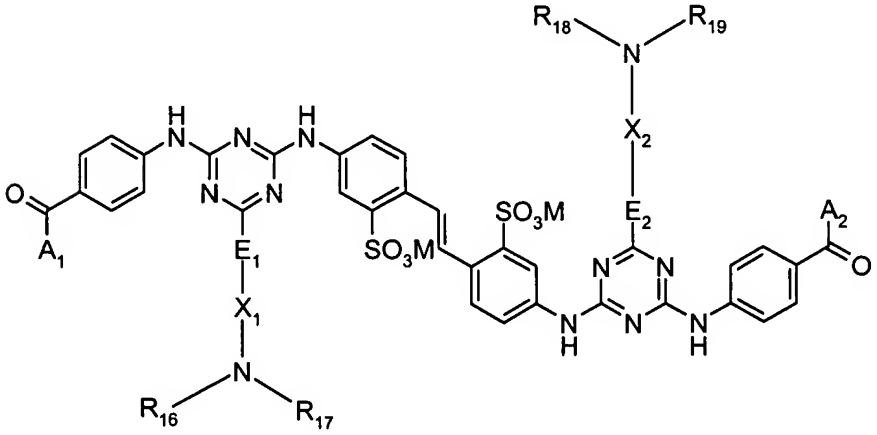
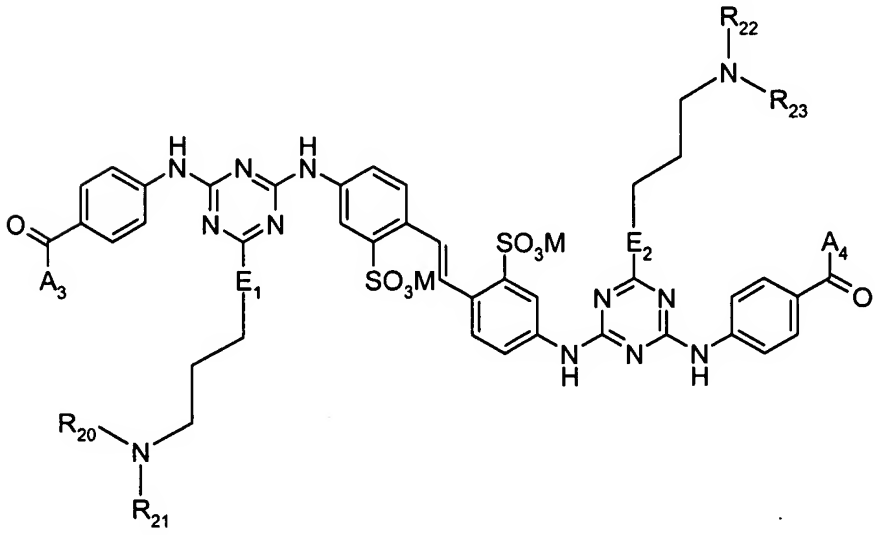
1. (original): A compound of formula (1), (2) or (3)



(1),



(2),



(3),

wherein

M is hydrogen, an alkali metal ion or an ammonium ion,

A_1 is $-OR_1$, $-NHR_1$, N-morpholinyl or 1-piperidyl,

A_2 is $-OR_2$, $-NHR_2$, N-morpholinyl or 1-piperidyl,

E_1, E_2, E_3 and E_4 are each independently of the others –O-, -NH- or $-NR_9$-, wherein R_9 together with R_4, R_6, R_2 or R_{12} forms an ethylene radical,

R_1 to R_6, R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently of the others hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl or a group of the formula $-(C_nH_{2n}Y)_m-R_7$, wherein Y is -O-, -NH-, $-NR_8$-, -CONH- or $-CONR_8$-, R_7 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl and R_8 is alkyl or aryl, n is a number from 2 to 6 and m is a number from 1 to 10, or pairs of two radicals R_1 and R_2, R_3 and R_4, R_5 and R_6 or R_{11} and R_{12} together form a bivalent radical of the formula $-CH_2CH_2OCH_2CH_2-$ or, when E_1, E_2, E_3 or E_4 is $-NR_9$-,

R_4, R_6, R_2 or R_{12} together with R_9 forms an ethylene radical,

R_{10}, R_{13}, R_{14} and R_{15} are each independently of the others alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl,

X_1 and X_2 are each independently of the other 1,2-cyclohexanediyl, a group of the formula $-(C_nH_{2n})_m-$ or a group of the formula $-(C_nH_{2n}Y)_m-$, wherein Y is -O-, -NH-, $-NR_8$-, -CONH- or $-CONR_8$- and R_8 is alkyl or aryl, n is a number from 2 to 6 and m is a number from 1 to 10,

Y_1 and Y_2 are each independently of the other 1,2-cyclohexanediyl, a group of the formula $-(C_nH_{2n})_m-$ or a group of the formula $-(C_nH_{2n}Y)_m-$, wherein Y is -O-, -NH-, $-NR_8$-, -CONH- or $-CONR_8$- and R_8 is alkyl or aryl, n is a number from 2 to 6 and m is a number from 1 to 10 and A^- is a singly charged anion or the two A^- form a doubly charged anion,

R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18} and R_{19} are each independently of the others hydrogen, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-aminoethyl or 3-aminopropyl,

R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{22} and R_{23} are each independently of the others alkyl, and

A_3 and A_4 are 2-hydroxyethylamino, 3-dimethylaminopropylamino or 3-diethylaminopropylamino.

2. (original): A compound of formula (2) or (3) according to claim 1, wherein the substituents A_1 and A_2, A_3 and A_4, E_1 and E_2, X_1 and X_2, R_{16} and R_{18}, R_{17} and R_{19}, R_{20} and R_{22} and also R_{21} and R_{23} are in each case identical.

3. (original): A compound of formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein the substituents E_1 and E_2, E_3 and E_4, X_1 and X_2, Y_1 and Y_2, R_3 and R_5, R_4 and R_6, R_{14} and R_{15}, R_1 and R_{11}, R_2 and R_{12} and also R_{10} and R_{13} are in each case identical.

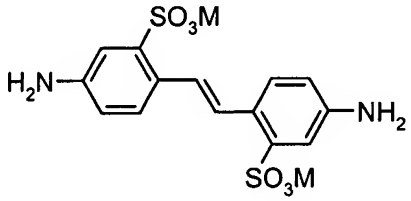
4. (original): A compound of formula (1) or (2) according to claim 1, wherein X_1 and X_2 are ethylene or trimethylene.

5. (original): A compound of formula (3) according to claim 1, wherein R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{22} and R_{23} are methyl or ethyl.

6. (currently amended): A compound of formula (2) or (3) according to ~~either~~ claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein A_1, A_2, A_3 and A_4 are amino, methylamino, 2-hydroxyethylamino, 3-dimethylaminopropylamino or ethoxy.

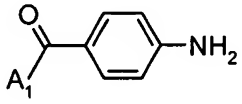
7. (currently amended): A compound of formula (1) according to ~~either~~ claim 1 ~~or claim 3~~, wherein R_1 to R_6 and R_{10} to R_{15} are methyl.

8. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (2) according to claim 1 wherein the substituents A_1 and A_2, A_3 and A_4, E_1 and E_2, X_1 and X_2, R_{16} and R_{18}, R_{17} and R_{19}, R_{20} and R_{22} and also R_{21} and R_{23} are in each case identical ~~2~~, which process comprises reacting cyanuric chloride by known methods with, in succession in any order, a compound of formula (4)



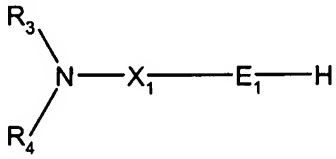
(4),

a compound of formula (5)



(5),

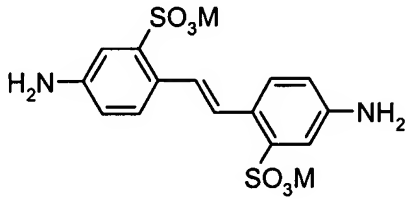
and a compound of formula (6)



(6),

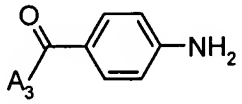
wherein M, A_1, E_1, X_1, R_3 and R_4 are as defined in claim 1.

9. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (3) according to claim 1 wherein the substituents A_1 and A_2, A_3 and A_4, E_1 and E_2, X_1 and X_2, R_{16} and R_{18}, R_{17} and R_{19}, R_{20} and R_{22} and also R_{21} and R_{23} are in each case identical ~~2~~, which process comprises reacting cyanuric chloride by known methods with, in succession in any order, a compound of formula (4)



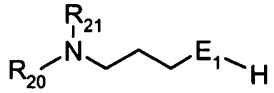
(4),

a compound of formula (7)



(7),

and a compound of formula (8)



(8),

wherein M, A_3, E_1, R_{20} and R_{21} are as defined in claim 1.

10. (currently amended): A method for the optical brightening of natural, semi-synthetic or synthetic textile fibres, which comprises treating said fibres in an aqueous medium with an effective amount ~~Use~~ of a compound of formula (1), (2) or (3) according to claim 1 ~~in the optical brightening of natural, semi-synthetic or synthetic textile fibres~~.

11. (currently amended): A method for the optical brightening of paper, which comprises treating said paper fibres in an aqueous medium with an effective amount ~~Use~~ of a compound of formula (1), (2) or (3) according to claim 1 ~~in the optical brightening of paper~~.

12. (original): A method of increasing the SPF of a textile fibre material, comprising the treatment of the textile fibre material with 0.05 – 3.0 % by weight, based on the weight of the textile fibre material, of one or more compounds of formula (1), (2) or (3) according to claim 1.

13. (new): A composition for brightening synthetic or natural organic materials, comprising water, a compound of formula (1), (2) or (3) according to claim 1 and optionally further adjuvants.